

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

American Embassy

Rome, Italy
May 2, 1955

In re: Dr. Engineer Luigi LAMPUGNANI
Avenue Saadi #153
Teheran, Iran

Mr. Albert J. Varrelman
American Embassy
Teheran, Iran

Dear Mr. Varrelman:

I am in receipt of information that the above named person may be engaged in the illicit narcotic traffic; has considerable political influence.

I shall appreciate being advised what your Embassy files disclose regarding this individual. It is requested that any inquiry you might decide to make of the local police be very discreet because it is further alleged he has many friends among them.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

Charles Siragusa
District Supervisor
U.S. Bureau of Narcotics

The two kilos of drugs were found in the car, and the two traffickers were obliged to declare their identity. The woman is one Ingeborg GRIFFEL, 30 years old, previously belonging to the German occupation services, now residing in Paris (since three months) in a hotel. The man, driver of the car, is one Armen NERCESSIAN, Iranian subject, 50 years old, residing ~~at~~ Grande Rue at Neauphle-le-Chateau.

NERCESSIAN explained that he had obtained morphine-base and refined it in a clandestine laboratory located at n. 40 Rue Auguste Rodin, Meudon. He had applied to the American Services of documentation and obtained from them all the information which he needed for his works as an improvised chemist.

He also divulged the name of his supplier of morphine base: one Nasrallah DJALAI, ex-consul of Iran in Brussels (Belgium) and Cairo (Egypt) who was arrested at his hotel. DJALAI had shipped his car from Iran to Genoa. From Genoa he drove to Paris with the three kilos of morphine base in the car, but was never troubled. The other kilo was seized, still unsold, in the Meudon laboratory.

cc: Bureau
District #2
Narcotic Agent Knight, Paris

8733

Rome, Italy
May 2, 1955

In re: Dr. Engineer Luigi LAMPUGNANI
Avenue Saadi #153
Teheran, Iran

Mr. H.J. Anslinger
Commissioner of Narcotics
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Special Employee US informed me recently that the above named person, an Italian national, and permanent resident in Teheran for the past 40 years is engaged in various illicit enterprises, possibly including the opium traffic.

LAMPUGNANI arrived in Italy on a vacation the other day. Pursuant to my request, US arranged a "casual" meeting with the suspect at the latter's Rome hotel. At that time I mentioned I intended to make a trip soon to Teheran. LAMPUGNANI gave me his home address, saying he expects to return next month to Teheran.

On April 28, 1955 I telephoned LAMPUGNANI asking to see him. At this meeting I confidentially advised LAMPUGNANI that I was a deportee and engaged in the international narcotic traffic. He promised not to mention this to US, who thinks I am an American merchant resident of Italy.

LAMPUGNANI boasted of his political influence in Iran, alleging that former Prime Minister Zahedi was his intimate friend. He claims he is a road construction engineer but supplements these earnings by different shady enterprises.

With regard to the narcotic situation in Iran, LAMPUGNANI says that although he has never transacted any business of this type he is willing to do so provided I am willing to buy at least one case of opium at a time. Apparently, he is well versed because he says the cases come in 72 kilogram lots. He believes the prevailing price is in the neighborhood of \$1000.00 per case.

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LAMPUGHANI alleged that the Director of the Opium Monopely at Teheran is his very dear friend; that no license of any kind would be required. However, he believes that delivery would have to be taken inside Iran. When he returns shortly to Teheran he promises to look into the possibility of having several cases shipped to me in Italy, falsely labelled.

According to LAMPUGHANI there is no clandestine morphine base or heroin production in Iran. He was acquainted with the Armen NERCESSIAN, et al clandestine heroin laboratory case we made in Paris about two years ago. LAMPUGHANI says he was personally acquainted with the defendant; the former Iranian diplomat. This diplomat allegedly had Iranian opium smuggled into France by diplomatic pouch and then converted it there into morphine base.

LAMPUGHANI claims that there is a tremendous over-production of Iranian opium. The occasional opium seizures made in Iran do not reflect the true situation there. Opium smoking is still quite prevalent. The illicit traffic in opium is winked at by the authorities.

Enclosed is a copy of a self-explanatory letter I have written Mr. Albert J. Varrelman, American Embassy, Teheran, Iran.

Very truly yours,

Charles Siragusa
District Supervisor

Encl.